



# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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## Death Match: Brown vs. Simpson vs. a Bear

by Deke Shearon

The ring, surrounded by a steel cage, stood in the center of the G a m b i l l Quadrangle. Mr. David C. Brown entered to the sounds of Radiohead's hit single off of the *Romeo and Juliet* soundtrack, "Talk Show Host." And one couldn't help but think of Coach Brown when hearing the lyrics, "I'll be waiting/With a gun and a pack of sandwiches." His ring attire was his birthday suit; Mr. Brown believed in the Greek way of fighting.



Coach Simpson

Mr. Frank Simpson entered to the sounds of AM radio static. He was flanked on either side by his children, dressed in a Gregorian monk outfits and bearing torches. He entered the cage with a look of absolute disdain and intimidation on his face. Upon entering the ring, the MBA wrestling coach promptly produced a can of gasoline from his trunks, poured it on himself, and set himself on fire.

And the bear was guided to the ring by two handlers, wearing khaki suits.

One of the handlers was missing

fingers. Upon entering the ring, the vicious grizzly ate one of the ropes whole.



Coach Brown

The bell rang. There were no referees for this match. In fact, no one

but your fair narrator was in the one-mile vicinity, and I was hiding in the bushes.

Both men immediately began to stare directly at the bear. The bear was insolent at first, smelling the burning flesh from Mr. Simpson. But slowly the look on the bear's face became one of

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## Mayor Purcell Reflects on MBA, Nashville

by Steven Syverud

Since becoming Mayor of Nashville in September of last year, Bill Purcell has been following through on his promise to improve education, public safety and quality of life in Nashville. On October 4 he laid out a new \$170.8 million dollar plan to accomplish these three initiatives. In his plan Purcell has allotted \$55.3 million for Metro Schools, \$29 million for neighborhoods, and \$53 million for public safety -all unprecedented amounts which were made possible by his careful investigation of the budgets of various Metro departments. Purcell's success in his first year as mayor can be traced to the experience he gained by serving five terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives and by serving as director of the Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies. This past week, *The Bell Ringer* was fortunate enough to interview him. Here is what he said.

**The Bell Ringer:** Are you enjoying your work as Mayor? What is the best part of the job?

**Mayor Purcell:** I really do enjoy my work as Mayor very much. It is a position that deals with the very real needs and problems of real people, and I have the opportunity to be of help every day.

**The Bell Ringer:** What do you do to relax and wind down from running our

city?

**Mayor Purcell:** I sing in the church choir, read and work around the house.

together. I also devote a lot of time to thinking about public policy for children. This is something I did for the



Purcell speaking at MBA during the dedication of the Science Building

I enjoy going to a lot of cultural and musical events with my family. For example we recently attended the Jonesborough Storytelling festival

Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies, and I enjoy this kind of work immensely.

**The Bell Ringer:** Why did you decide to go into politics?

**Mayor Purcell:** My neighbors asked me to run for state legislature. After working on the problems of individual clients since becoming a lawyer, I thought I might be able to make more progress on the underlying issues from the legislature.

**The Bell Ringer:** What is the Mayor's youth council?

**Mayor Purcell:** The Mayor's Youth Council is a 30-member advisory council comprised of teens from all across Nashville who meet with me quarterly to talk about issues that affect them. They also work together to try to promote the positive involvement of youth in our government and in our communities.

**The Bell Ringer:** How would MBA students who want to participate get involved?

**Mayor Purcell:** We take applications for the Mayor's Youth Council every

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## New Government Club Takes Form

Look forward to the formation of the new government club. The purpose of the government club is to provide forums for the education and discussion of current political affairs. Each meeting will host a combination of lectures, discussions, guest-speakers, and student debates that apply to the specified topics of the meeting. Local, state, national, and international politics will all be discussed.

The club's first event will involve coordinating this year's first public debate that will take place in the quadrangle during 5th and 6th period. The debate will focus on the two main presidential candidates, Al Gore and George W. Bush. Stay tuned to future announcements about meetings and events.

## The Sound of Music Plays Across Street

Starting the first weekend in

November, the play *The Sound of Music*, a World War II piece focusing on the Holocaust, will be playing at St. Cecilia. The extremely famous and popular play is likely to be a great success thanks to its fine cast which includes MBA students Patrick Simpson and Ford Manning.

## Bowling Team Kicks Off Season With a Victory

The MBA Bowling Team kicked off its season last week against Home-Fogg. The match took place at Melrose Lanes, which is MBA's home turf.

The Big Red won the match, which was definitely much closer than it should have been. The final score was 14-13, with junior bowler Hunter Oldacre pulling through in the last match with a stellar game to seal the victory.

## Peace Talks With Father Ryan

On Wednesday, October 18, ten students from Father Ryan High School came over to MBA to discuss

the rivalry that exists between the two schools. Ten MBA students, representing the sixth through twelfth grades joined with them in the Ann Potter Wilson Room.

The meeting was organized by Ed Miranda and the leadership committee that meets during activity period. Ideas brought forth included raising of both schools' flags at games, joint half-time competitions and joint community service projects.

In recent years though, the schools have maneuvered in their interaction with each other. Other than fights in recent years, which remain a major problem to be dealt with, there have been few other issues. The article on the back page was placed there to show that progress has been made and not to increase ill-will.

This recent meeting, hopefully the first of several, is proof that things will keep improving.

## Totomoi Inducts Four in Fall Tapping

Totomoi, MBA's very own honorary fraternity held its spring tapping on October 18.

The seniors tapped into

Totomoi this fall were Cal Alexander, Jonathan Miran, Reid Murphy and Thompson Paine. These students were commended for their academic and extra-curricular excellence and their service to the school.

Current members in the student body are seniors Jesse Bull, Stephen Smith, and Sumner Vrakasath. This spring, juniors and faculty members, as well as seniors, will be eligible for Totomoi.

## Special Election Issue Set to Come Out Next Week

In preparation for this year's Presidential election, *The Bell Ringer* will be putting out its first ever Election Issue. Inside you'll find analysis from MBA's AP Government students, a poll showing who would be President if MBA students decided the election, and MBA students sounding off with their opinions on this year's candidates. Look for this issue to come out on campus early in November, when Americans everywhere will go to the polls to decide our nation's next President.

# The MBA Debate Squad Continues to "Pillage the Villages" Across the Nation

by Paul Johnson

The past three weeks have seen the Montgomery Bell Academy debate team fly and drive to various locales in the nation to do battle with other forensics teams.

The first of the three tournaments in a row was the New Trier tournament in Chicago, Illinois. MBA sent four teams to compete in the varsity policy division. The unit of Scott Lewis and Josh Rosenblatt went 3-3 in the face of stiff competition, and the units of Trey Tally and Paul Pope, Paul Johnson and Ian McDaniel, and Jamie Carroll and Virek Sami reached the

elimination rounds.

Tally and Pope were matched against Surti and Camill in the first elimination round, meaning that the unit of Camill and Surti advanced to the semifinals along with the unit of McDaniel and Johnson, who were lucky enough to emerge victorious in their doubles round. There both MBA teams fell, but overall the weekend was competitively solid.

The next weekend two teams travelled up to that hotbed of fun and games, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There we competed in the Iowa Caucus

tournament. Both teams advanced into the elimination rounds, with the unit of McDaniel and Johnson squeaking in as the bottom seed, and the unit of Jamie Carroll and Josh Rosenblatt clearing in the 5th seed.

The unit of Josh and Jamie made it to the quarterfinals before bowing out, and the unit of Johnson and McDaniel made it to finals before losing a close round.

Finally, the team sacrificed its day off to travel to St. Marks' school in Texas. After a nice flight, the extemporaneous speaking and policy

teams went to work. When the smoke had cleared, MBA was down to the units of Tally and Pope, and McDaniel and Johnson in the policy division. Both teams lost in the double-elimination rounds.

As far as extemporaneous speaking went, Jonathan Mott got to the quarterfinals and Carter Wynn got to the semis before losing. All in all a successful few weeks for the debate team. The next tournament will be at Homewood in Alabama. I will now utter a powerful boast that we will do quite well there.



## Mayor Purcell (cont.)

spring, and select a new group every fall. Eligible juniors and seniors should contact my office about the next round of applications.

**The Bell Ringer:** Are there any particular issues you are referring to the Youth Council this year?

**Mayor Purcell:** The Mayor's Youth Council has already participated in a special focus group for our performance audit of the Metro schools to provide input on their experiences. In addition, every year they put together a city-wide Youth Summit to mobilize youth input and participation. I would also like to see the Mayor's Youth Council continue their participation in the First Day Festival by encouraging their peers to get involved and bringing their parents to school next year.

**The Bell Ringer:** There is a new neighborhood overlay zoning designation on part of the neighborhood around MBA. What is the policy for expansion of schools like MBA into neighborhoods around them?

**Mayor Purcell:** There is not a formal "policy" specifically addressing the expansion of a private school into a neighborhood - there is, however, a process which involves the Metro Planning Commission, the Metro Historic Zoning Commission, and the Metro Council to help us plan for the growth of our communities. Any school, both public and private, seeking to expand their campus would follow the normal process of approval through the Metro Planning Commission. The new conservation overlay would require MBA to seek consultation and design approval from the Metro Historic Zoning Commission only if MBA sought to demolish existing housing in the neighborhood or to build a new structure adjacent to the current campus.

**The Bell Ringer:** Do you think this policy is a good one?

**Mayor Purcell:** I think we need to balance the needs of neighborhoods with the needs of our schools. To help us refine that process, I was very pleased to bring in Rick Bernhardt, our new Planning Commission Director, who brings a new perspective to this work. Our Planning Commission and Historic Zoning Commission are very accessible and capable and should be sought out as a valuable resource for community planning decisions. In the future we hope there will be a much better understanding of the benefits and practices of the processes which will allow our neighborhoods and schools to reach a greater consensus on their future development.

**The Bell Ringer:** How do you see MBA in relation to the greater Nashville area?

**Mayor Purcell:** I think MBA provides an excellent educational opportunity to Nashville parents, and combined with its unique history, adds to our overall quality of life.

**The Bell Ringer:** Are there any ways in which you think MBA might improve its relationship with the rest of Nashville?

**Mayor Purcell:** MBA is fortunate in its close proximity to a very strong neighborhood in Nashville. I would like to see MBA become a leader in fostering relationships between neighborhoods and schools. I would also encourage MBA youth to become involved in leadership and community development initiatives like the Mayor's Youth Council.

**The Bell Ringer:** How are you going to help improve the schools in Nashville?

**Mayor Purcell:** By focusing attention and resources on the needs of our schools - I have recently made significant capital spending recommendations to Metro Council and by increasing our focus on parental and community involvement - the success of the First Day festival is a good example.

**The Bell Ringer:** What do you think is Nashville's greatest strength?

**Mayor Purcell:** We have a lot of strengths as a city. Particularly, we have a unique quality of life involving different factors (strong economic opportunity with little unemployment, large city resources with smaller-city benefits still available, etc.) that together give us something that no other city has.

**The Bell Ringer:** What do you think is Nashville's greatest weakness?

**Mayor Purcell:** We have a lot of important opportunities available to us in the coming years. Our challenge as a city will be to continue to focus on those basic issues that support Nashville - particularly the development of our schools, affordable homes in safe, strong neighborhoods, and increased economic opportunity for everyone.

**The Bell Ringer:** How do you envision this city evolving in your term as mayor?

**Mayor Purcell:** We are focusing on the elements that will make this city strong: education, safety and our neighborhoods. We will soon see a world-class library and an extraordinary art center. These will complement our initiatives for education and our neighborhoods. I think that we will continue to focus on the basic resources that make our city strong - our infrastructure, our schools, our opportunities and quality of life.

Goldie's is a neighborhood deli specializing in a variety of Kosher meats, soups, and sandwiches. We make party trays and can cater any function. From knishes to knockwursts and pickles and pumpernickel, Goldie's Deli has something to take care of the biggest of appetites.



Free 20 oz. fountain drink for all MBA seniors who go to Goldie's on off-campus lunch

Monday-Friday:

9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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## Wheels Are in Motion for Philosophy Club

by Jesse Bull

"Hunger is the best pickle" and hunger for philosophy is a really big, really tasty pickle. Those who showed up for the first meeting of the Second Annual Philosophy Society know what I'm talking about. After the long line reaching outside of Wilson Library had finally filed into the Anne Porter Wilson room, an almost tangible excitement could be felt in the air.

How could such enthusiasm build from a mere meeting of the "philosophy club"? I'll tell you why—it's not a mere "philosophy club." When you mention McDonald's, you think universal such is Philosophy Society. The ideas discussed are issues that mankind has struggled with from

the beginning of time (if there is such a thing).

A sampling of all walks of life (from freshmen to seniors—microbes haven't sufficiently developed a concise form of human conscience and therefore do not count) turned up to the meeting. Faculty leadership was provided by Mr. Gross and Dr. G., and guest facilitation by Mr. Charles Miller of Elton.

To excite our literal and metaphorical taste buds, Chris Bateman provided a large bag of Twinkies, a fiery hot can of Shotgun Willie's Hotter 'n' Hell Sauce, and a generous pitcher of tap water. I started the meeting by throwing out the topic agreed upon by our board—bioethics, cloning, and the

like. But the discussion grew to astronomical proportions, delving into man's purpose, and the nature of progress. Some great ideas were put forth by all of the teachers as well as students such as Chris Bateman, Stephen Smith, Walker Duncan, James Patten, Jonathan Miran, Ed Buchanan, Mike Pace, Andy Grey, and Drew Conrad. But whether you expressed your opinions or simply chose to sit back and absorb the amazing barrage of thought emanating from the crowded circle of intellectuals, there is no doubt that the meeting was quite fruitful for all.

Whether it was Schreiner's comments that "The world will blow up sooner or later" and "we are preparing against alien attacks," Ed's astute golfing

metaphor, Chris' reference to anthropocentrism, or Drew's insightful allusion to Nathaniel Hawthorne, the discussion was full of great and diverse revelations. I was really surprised with the level of energy and could barely get a word in myself. The success of the club's first meeting this school year really speaks to the excellence of a student body where kids can walk straight off the football field or from the publications room or a service project to talk seriously and extremely adeptly about deep philosophical issues. Judging by the response, we hope to have meetings much more often and to continue, as Zac Hood puts it, the "awesome thought" involved in a Philosophy Society discourse.

## Service Club Takes On Numerous Projects

by Andy Grey

The Service Club is amidst one of its busiest times of the year. While the main project that has dominated all weekends has been Habitat for Humanity, there have been many other smaller projects throughout the month. October began with the Spaghetti Supper (raised food drive for Service Club Activity Period members collected cans every morning of Homecoming week). Also during



Summit Vukobrat, Service Club President

Homecoming week, Tipton Horn led a group of volunteers to the Belmont Terrace Nursing Home to talk to seniors who other wise do not get a chance to talk with a lot of people.

During Homecoming weekend, MBA started building this year's Habitat for Humanity House. Vanderbilt University is co-sponsoring, and both groups braved the cold to meet at the building site of Old Matthews Road to begin razing down the boards of the floor and putting up the interior and exterior walls of the house at 7:00 am. Building continued through the weekend with roofing.

On the following Wednesday, Patrick Gibbs and Jonathan Miran traveled to Edgemoor Avenue for Kid's Cafe, a project in which students serve inner-city children dinner, play with

them, and get to know them.

On Thursday, a group of 10 went down to War Memorial Plaza to help setting-up the annual Southern Book Festival. The work consisted of lifting tables and boxes of books and taking them to their respective booths.

On the 14th, Habitat continued as workers finished the shingles on the roof and started hanging the siding on the exterior walls. Sunday saw the siding, trim and 3-channel nearly finished.

There were also two other projects on Sunday. In the afternoon, a

group of five went to Hillwood Presbyterian Church to help set up for the annual Hillwood Playcare Fall Carnival. In the evening, six volunteers helped take down the tents, tables, and chairs at the Southern Book Festival.

On Monday, Will Horvath and Tipton Horn led parking at Broad Electric for the Titans game. All proceeds from the parking fund the Habitat house.

On Tuesday, MBA students again traveled to Belmont Terrace Nursing Home. Finally, the weekend of Fall Break was busy with Habitat for Humanity and parking for the Vanderbilt

game. Work on the house featured the building of a shed and a staircase for the backdoor as well as work on the front porch and interior of the house.

In addition to all these projects, Miller Harris and the Student Council led two others: Soup Kitchen on October 7th and Special Olympics on October 14th. Furthermore, many students have been tutoring at the St. Vincent De Paul school throughout the month. The weekend of the 28th and 29th will conclude work on the Habitat house, and projects such as Relief Nashville will be coming in November.

## Chicago Art Trip Busy, But Fun

by Andy Grey

The weekend of October 20-22, a fourteen-member team of students participated in the fourth annual arts trip to Chicago. A conglomeration of occurrences and experiences, some intellectually stimulating and others amusing, made the trip a memorable few days. After arriving in Chicago Thursday morning and checking into the surprisingly comfortable Allegro Hotel, the group spent the afternoon in the Art Institute of Chicago, which featured the William Merritt Chase special exhibit.

The Flat Top Grill, one of Chicago's most popular diners, provided a dinner in which each customer made his own stir-fry.

The group then took a short

metro ride over to the Second City theater. For those unfamiliar with the company, Second City features a number of improvisational comic actors who put on Saturday Night Live-esque skits. Such comic greats as Mike Myers and Chris Farley got their starts at Second City.

Friday featured a morning trip to the Mexican Museum Day of the Dead Exhibition, and an afternoon in Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. The entire first floor of the latter museum at the time of our visit was dedicated to an exhibition of the works of Sol LeWitt, a modern artist known for his work with pure line and color and geometrical configurations of cubes. No student is able to leave the Museum of Contemporary Art without a change in his perspective on the meaning of art.

For dinner all sixteen travelers

ate at a real Chicago pizzeria. Friday night, the students went to a production of Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, uniquely depicted in a post-Renaissance setting. Fortunately, the students were able to chat with a member of the cast after the show.

Saturday featured an architectural tour by boat and a visit to the Terra Museum, dinner at an authentic English pub, and a viewing of Samuel Beckett's *End Game*, a well-known work of Existentialism. Again, two members of the four-member cast graced the visitors with a few moments of conversation following the show.

Sunday morning the fourteen travelers returned to Nashville exhausted and utterly filled with new artistic perspectives.



# Freshmen Advice 5

## Pate and Tate: How Freshman Can Avoid Fleshpiles by Seniors

by Charlie Pate and Taylor Tate

Since the beginning of time, certain groups of people have sought to conquer over others. From the ancient Hindu caste system, to the dominance of lords over serfs in Medieval times, to the brutal corporate

Freshman, to avoid further flesh piles. Each Freshman should wish:  
-To not be picked up by his mother from the Homecoming Dance at 10:00.  
-To drive to a PG-13 movie at Patscapes.

little microbes."

-To one day be a septemore and then really be cool!  
-To "get his roll on" in the family minivan with his mom riding shotgun.  
-To grow his eyebrows back after



It is no secret that seniors have picked on underclassmen in the past.

hierarchy of the modern economy, these has always been an evident class system. Likewise, the Senior-Freshman relationship at MBA is the same. As Freshman, we could try to fight it, but the Seniors are so much bigger than we are. Therefore, we have proposed these guidelines to be followed by all

To not be yelled at by Yolanda while the Seniors stand there and laugh when the Freshman is cutting through the cafeteria to get ice cream.  
-For the class to win any contest at a pep rally.  
-To understand any joke at a pep rally.  
-To be cool enough to pick on "those

ripping off the Senior-applied tape which fastened him to a chair or goal post.

Hopefully, with these inspirations in mind, the Froshes will no longer be oppressed. Face it, we can't change the Seniors, so we can at least try to be less goofy.

## Inside the Mind of An MBA Senior

by Brian Eastig

Let me remind you of some of the senior logic used when picking on freshmen.

1. Any thing that small should be hit.
2. The freshman "annoying gear"
3. They need to understand they are at the bottom of the food chain.
4. It's our way of saying "welcome to high school"
5. The seniors before us did it, so they started it.
6. A freshman wrapped in tape kind of looks like a burrito, mmmmm Taco Bell.
7. We never flesh piled them, we just all happened to fall on some of them at the same time.

8. It helps them go from annoying kids to real men.
9. Its fun as hell.
10. Last but not least I would like to use some math skills and prove our motives correct Freshman Theorem.

- a. the word fresh is used in describing vegetables.
- b. vegetables are bought at the grocery.
- c. fresh fruit is bought at the grocery.
- d. a fresh fruit is grapes.
- e. grapes are used to make wine.
- f. in Italy the wine is made

by stomping, and crushing grapes.

Therefore logically freshman must be stomped and crushed.

QED

I would like to make a statement on behalf of myself. I have written this not to take a personal shot at seniors but rather at the institution and observations of the past. I know of no incidents the seniors have had so far this year. I respect them and think they are really cool, the ladies find them very attractive and they are the coolest people at MBA. (please don't kill me.)

## Ask Schuller: Senior Treatment of Froshes

by Chris Schuller

The Twisted, Evil, Sarcastic, Draconian Freshman Peer Advice Column (fabricated entirely) by Christopher Schuller and Joseph Heller Schuller.

I'm new to MBA this year, and the seniors are really intimidating. I've heard rumors that they tape annoying freshmen to the walls of elevators and force them to go up and down all day. Since my voice is still squeaky and I'm 13½ years old and 3'11", I live in constant fear of being taped to an elevator wall. Is the rumor true?

Trepidaciously Yours,  
Vertically Terrified

Terrified

What are you smoking? Do you actually believe that Montgomery Bell Academy seniors, whose parents have spent tens of thousands of dollars on premier education for their sons, the most intelligent of twelfth-graders, these classically-educated scholars of Cicero, calculus, modern language, contemporary literature, ancient history, and William Shakespeare, would be thoughtless enough to tape a freshman to an elevator wall? Of course not!!!

Why, any two-bit moron who'd suffered through MBA for six years would know that agreeable, peevish freshmen must of course be taped only to the ceiling of the elevator, where their weeping, senescent forms galled and mummified in tape would not be noticed in passing by the authorities. Consider: How many elevator ceilings have you looked at?

I'm shocked that you would even suggest that any of these fine young men who act so intelligent and forward-thinking around their instructors are any different in the presence of their peers. Shame on you.

Sadistically,  
Christopher Schuller

## UT Football Opens Season in Dire Straits

by Ryan Mirian

A chorus of screams and chants of Rocky Top have given way to apathy in the state of Tennessee in the year 2000. Seldom have I heard a conversation about Volunteer football during lunches in Frist Hall. The fans have stopped wearing their orange. The flags have ceased to fly. The season is lost, and everyone knows it.

With a promising start against Southern Miss, UT was seemingly on the right track. Even with a question mark at quarterback, everyone thought the Vols could jump on their juggernaut Travis Henry and run through a winning season. Fans hoped the defense could pick up the slack and keep UT in close games. All Tennesseans hoped the Vols wouldn't beat themselves.

Well, it's mid October, and the Vols are 2-3. So what happened? Close games slipped away in the waning minutes. Desperate come-backs have fallen short. UT has played inconsistently all year long. After the Georgia defeat, Tennessee Coach Phillip Fulmer said, "We're not getting much done consistently right now on either side of the ball. You see a play or two out of our running backs, and John Henderson has shown up. But we're not getting anything near consistent

enough."

How could these same Vols who won the National Championship

ultimately decided those games? How could this team not capitalize on the great amount of talent it has? Well, some

beatable Florida team. An over-rated Georgia squad demolished the Vols. Even lowly LSU made UT just look silly. Some argue that South Carolina, a team with the longest losing streak in Division I football at the beginning of season, is the dominator of the SEC. The Gamecocks are still to come. Can you spell beating?

It seems every time the Vols go on the road, it's raining up-rights. Why don't they just quit right now? It makes sense. They could lose the rest of their games this season and let everyone think Volunteer football is dead. Then, next year, they could catch everyone off guard, beat the snot out of all opponents, and win the National Championship. Who knows? Maybe Fulmer will throw in the towel against Vanderbilt. After all, what's another goal-post going to hurt?

Cheer up Tennessee. This season is not a total loss. Fans realized how much they took winning for granted in previous seasons. Be proud Volunteer fans throughout Tennessee. Wear your blinding shades of orange. Be obnoxious to your hearts' content. Taunt Vandy fans. You'll always have that 70-3 win against the evil empire, Louisiana-Monroe.



The Vols waded through a crowd of Georgia fans after losing 21-10

only two years ago fall out of the Top 25 rankings and dwell winless at the bottom of the SEC Eastern Division? How could this team, known for its hard-nosed defense, allow huge drives against Florida and Georgia that

might say that the Vols will still win eight games and go to a respectable bowl game. Not so fast my fair-weather friends! The Vols are not even close to being the best of the mediocre teams in the SEC this year. They lost to a

## Undefeated MBA Gears up For Father Ryan

by Sumeet Vaikunth

MBA's 2000 Homecoming game was a battle for #1 in Division II. The McCallie Tornadoes, led by quarterback Penn Garvich and their midline option offense, came in undefeated after posting significant wins over Brentwood Academy, Christian Brothers, and #1 Bradley Central High School. The MBA Big Red, led by quarterback Ingle Martin, were also officially undefeated and boasted a 26 game winning streak dating back to 1998.

The first quarter was all MBA. Reid Murphy bolted 30 yards to the endzone, and the Big Red were up 7-0. Another drive produced a 30-yard touchdown pass from Martin to Nathan Sensing. Moses Osemwegie then added a 55-yard run to make the score 21-0.

Everyone thought it would be another blowout, a common occurrence on the Hill the past two years with a nationally ranked team, but the Blue Tornadoes showed a lot of heart as they came back. Garvich led McCallie downfield at the end of the 1st half and sneaked in from 2 yards to make the score 21-7 at halftime.

In the third quarter, both teams came out fired up and a defensive battle ensued throughout the quarter.

Finally with 17 seconds left in the quarter, Garvich hit Thomas Campbell from 7 yards out to bring McCallie within a touchdown.

The fourth quarter saw McCallie hold the Big Red on third down when MBA got into scoring territory. Ingle Martin's field goal attempt from 55 yards out was no good. With 3:08 remaining in the game, the Blue Tornadoes tied the score on another 2-yard sneak from Garvich. But the McCallie defense, which had not given up a point since

early in the second quarter, could not stop the Big Red from marching down the field one final time.



The Big Red defense lines up against MUS

After McCallie withstood a third down from their 36-yard line, Ingle Martin shifted from quarterback to placekicker and nailed a 53-yard field goal with 26 seconds remaining. McCallie started from their own 20 with hope for a tying field goal, but MBA's prevent defense sealed the win on

Homecoming.

The next week, MBA traveled to Memphis for a Clinic Bowl rematch with Christian Brothers. The Big Red had no problem with the Purple Wave as they won 31-0. MBA had over 400 yards of total offense and raced to a 24-0 first quarter lead. The defense limited Christian Brothers to just over 100 yards on offense and caused 4 turnovers as Moses Osemwegie blocked a punt and ran it back 55 yards to score MBA's first defensive touchdown of the season.

This Friday, the regular season ends with a visit from the Evil Empire of Father Ryan. The Irish are fighting through a mediocre season in which the team is without a division win. Memories from last year's humiliation at Dudley Field will factor into the game as Ryan will be fired up to play spoiler to the Big Red's 28 game winning streak as the Irish will not make this year's playoffs. The 25th-ranked Big Red will look to wrap up the regular season and rest during their bye in the first week of the playoffs and then try to capture the State Championship for the third consecutive year.



# Sports

7

## Weenie Bowl

by Thompson Payne

The Big Red Golf Team concluded its season in the Division II State Golf Tournament at Henry Horton State Park. The team finished 4<sup>th</sup>, twenty-nine strokes behind Baylor and MUS, and 21 strokes behind ECS. Graham Worham led for eighth place overall with a two-day total of 149. Carter Henderson was next for MBA with a 151.

But the members golf team have their sights on a bigger prize, the 2000 Weenie Bowl Championship. The Weenie Bowl, for those of you who stay from mainstream American culture, is the greatest athletic competition in the western hemisphere, pitting against each other golfers and cross-country runners. It is a heated battle which usually begins in assembly, with the bigger and bulkier ponies of each team (e.g. David Pruitt and Brad McDowell) get up in front of the entire school and talk a little smack.

This year, though, the struggle has already begun. Just recently, Mr. Gioia held a dinner at his house for all of the golf team and cross-country team members to promote a sense of friendliness in the rivalry. But it was NOT pretty. The golf team served themselves first and retreated to a corner to dine among themselves. When a couple of the runners ventured over in peace to try to desegregate the occasion, they had their seats pulled out from under them as they sat down. Sadly, they were unable to catch on to this clever golf team play, hitting their backsides on the hard floor repeatedly.

### Who to Watch:

**Golf:** Jeff Young: This man's not afraid to get dirty. Last year he grabbed Brandon Booth's meat and two veggies, and at Mr. Gioia's even pulled the chair out from under his own teammate.

**Duncan Fort:** Seven cokes a day and the most horrendous posture on the Hill can't stop this man from dominating the gridiron. Don't forget he started both ways in eighth grade.

**Miller Harris:** His smiling, FCA facade hides a mean spirit. He, too, is not afraid to get dirty.

**Will Fugate:** Rumor has it this golf team reject will be brought back from suspension for the big game. Look for his blinding speed and wily tactics at receiver.

**Cross-Country:** Jeff Sweeney: His hard work and unparalleled work ethic doesn't end in the classroom. Jeff

## Tennessee Titans Roll

by Michael Press

After a close and unexpected loss to Buffalo on the road in the opening game of this 2000 NFL season, the Tennessee Titans have recovered magnificently by winning their last six in a row. The wins have come against the Chiefs, the longtime division rival Steelers, the Giants, the Bengals, the Jaguars on Monday night, and, most recently the Ravens.

In the Titans' previous three games before Eddie George was injured on the first play, he had rushed the ball 102 times, close to tying the record number of carries for three games held by former Oiler Earl Campbell. Against the Jaguars, George rushed the ball for an impressive 160 yards, and gained plenty more on a few pass receptions. In the last few weeks, Eddie George has yet again established himself as one of the premier tailbacks in the game of football, leading the AFC in rushing.

Running the ball, however, is not the only thing the Titans have been doing well lately. Steve McNair's accuracy, consistency, and total

yardage passing the ball have all gone way up. It seems that ever since stepping in to win the Steelers' game in the last few minutes, McNair's confidence has been noticeably higher. More aggressive than the actual passing and receiving statistics, is the condition

have been plagued for the past three weeks with hamstring injuries. In their absence, however, kick return man, Derrick Mason, has shined, leading the team in both reception yardage and return yardage. Speed demon Chris Sanders has started the past two games alongside Mason, and come down with a few amazing catches. It

appears that the Titans' amazing ability to fill injury gaps may take them deep into the post-season. Even after the core of the offense, George, went down against the Ravens, Tennessee still found a way to win.

On the other side of the ball, the Titans defense has been phenomenal. With the exception of two long runs, one coming in each of the past two weeks, the defense has shut down opposing teams' rushing attack. By holding the Giants' much acclaimed Thunder and Lightning rushers, Tiki Barber and Ron Dayne, to a total of 4 yards rushing, the Titans were able to keep their offense on the field for most of the game.

If Eddie keeps pounding, McNair stays confident, and the defense doesn't let down, the Titans could find themselves playing in Tampa this January.



Eddie George celebrates the Titans' win over Jacksonville.

of the Titans' receivers. Kevin Dyson, a starter, tore his ACL in practice after week 2, and is out for the season. Receivers Yancey Thigpen and the newly acquired free agent, Carl Pickens,

has been sweltering if not in the weight room in the off-season. (Some think he's on Androline, which by the way, is still legal in the Major League and

Weenie Bowl play.)

**Brandon Booth:** Look for this man to take on anybody. With the cup he'll have on this year because of last year's incident, Brandon won't be afraid of anything.

**Morgan Miller:** Although Fort will stick on Morgan like white on rice for most of the game, expect his star wide-outs endurance to slightly edge Duncan's.

**Walker Duncan:** This ringer is the result of a vigorous off-season recruiting campaign organized by Mr. Pruitt and the other coaches to draw football players away from those slow games where they use pads. Look for his strong points: speed and agility.

With the intensity of the rivalry at an all-time high this year, MBA can expect a good one. But if the golf team successfully brings in their desired refs who will "let 'em play," so to speak, look for these stellar athletes to bring home the hardware from a very physical match.



The MBA Golf Team must ready itself for the Weenie Bowl.

## Vandy's Bowl Hopes Down the Tubes Again

by David Was

It was difficult for diehard Vanderbilt football fans to take in the action Saturday afternoon at Vanderbilt Stadium. As the final few seconds ticked off the clock, fans were heard from those in the crowd who had not already filed for the exits. They were realizing that this 30-14 defeat at the hands of the South Carolina Gamecocks had just dashed their hopes of a winning season. Instead of having a much-anticipated breakout year, Vanderbilt's football team was making a different kind of history: Saturday's loss guaranteed an eighteenth straight losing season. In the wake of the loss, players, coaches, and, most especially, fans, were dispirited.

Head coach Woody Widenhofer summed it up best after the game: "There are no happy campers in Nashville right now." The weary looks on the players' faces told all. In the final seconds on the sidelines, certain players were pointing fingers at others and blaming them for the loss. In reality, the loss to a South Carolina team whose record was 9-11 last year was the fault of nobody in particular. Every player seemed to have his own contribution to the final outcome.

Late in the second quarter, Antwan Bradford ineptly hit on a fake field goal on fourth down; the Gamecocks got a crucial first down to keep the drive alive and score a touchdown just before halftime to increase their lead to 17-7. John Markkan missed a 50 yard field goal by leaving the kick several yards short. Granted, the attempt was very long in length, but keep in mind that there is a certain kicker on this very campus who has a range of 55+ yards. Third in a long list of Commodores who made key mistakes in the game was quarterback Greg Zolman. After the Vandy defense had forced turnovers to give the offense new life, Zolman threw

two fatal interceptions that took all the and embarrassed, South Carolina went



Ray Perkins is brought down as he tries for the extra yard.

wind out of the Ducks' sails for good.

It is not fair to blame all of Vanderbilt's lack of success on the players; the coaching staff also has played a major role in the ongoing woes. One conspicuous example is head coach Woody Widenhofer. In the preseason, Widenhofer had promised anybody who would listen to him that this was the most talented defense he had ever had at Vanderbilt. According to coach Woody, this year's defense would be as good, if not better, than the 1997 defense that was ranked #1 in the SEC. Even after getting crushed at Auburn, he stood by his earlier comments.

On Saturday afternoon, though, in front of a Homecoming crowd of 33,000, he showed little confidence in his defense. Instead of backing South Carolina up ten yards after a holding call, Widenhofer, who was mouing the sidelines without any headphones on, took the down and thus expected the Gamecocks to attempt a field goal. However, on the next play Vandy's special teams was completely faked out

on to score a touchdown and again kicked off to Vanderbilt. With well over a minute remaining before halftime and with two time outs left, the coach decided to kneel on the ball. He was content not to try to score before the half.

These examples of Widenhofer's poor judgment and lack of coaching and preparation left fans behind to wonder just why they were wasting their time in the stands. Precious time and money hopelessly were lost and could not be recovered. As three more games remain on the 2000 schedule against the likes of powers Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee, things will not get any easier for the Commodore faithful. Another disappointing 2-9 season is more than likely in the making.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to [thebellringer2000@hotmail.com](mailto:thebellringer2000@hotmail.com). Those letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

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The Gamecocks defense was too much for the Ducks as they sack quarterback Greg Zolman here.



## Almost Famous: Does It Live Up To Hype?

by Will Choppin

I think that the best movies are the ones with the even greater soundtracks. Nothing draws my attention more to a film than a part in the movie with a fantastic song playing in the background. Some of the best music-movie moments are the opening and closing credits to *The Breakfast Club* (with Simple Minds' "Don't You Playin'"), the amazing vignette with The

Stillwater for Rolling Stone magazine. William, astounded with this offer, very summarily agrees to do the assignment. He then goes on a short tour with the band, taking all this excitement to his head and not ever thinking of any remote consequences that may and do follow.

Among the subplots are William's seclusion from his mother and rivalry between members of the band. William's mother, played magnificently by Frances McDormand, is very aware of what is going on in the day and age in which the movie is set (late 60's-early 70's), and is rather overprotective of her son. She asks her son, while away with the band, to call at least twice a day. William not calling and his trip lasting longer than the originally planned four days add up to the deterioration of the once-strong mother-son relationship. It seems that William has been



The cast of *Almost Famous*

Dude smoking on the dance floor while Kenny Rogers' "Just Dropped In" is playing in *The Big Lebowski*, and even Vanilla Ice singing "Go Ninja Go Ninja Go" while the *Ninja Turtles* are bashing the foot soldiers in *The Secret of the Ooze*. Cameron Crowe's new film *Almost Famous* almost epitomizes the kind of film that has an even greater soundtrack, with its stellar incorporation of fabulous classic rock songs (including songs by Led Zeppelin, The Who, and Elton John) to great scenes in the movie.

Music is the dominant factor throughout the whole movie. As for the plot, a young music journalist named William Miller (based on Crowe himself) is given a \$1000 dollar paying assignment to give a review of the band

consumed by fame. The rivalry in the film is between the guitarist and the lead singer, played by Billy Crudup and Jason Lee, respectively. A T-shirt of the band is released, and only Crudup is visible with the other three members faded in the background of the shirt. "I'm the lead singer, and you're the mysterious guitar player," explains Lee, thus commencing quite a bit of rivalry, which is of course all sparked by fame.

Although filled with an incredible soundtrack, *Almost Famous* just doesn't capture the essence of Crowe's other movies. Maybe it ran too long. It did seem like there were at least two different parts in the movie where I thought the movie was about to end. I was wrong, and the movie kept on rolling for another 20 minutes. Yet, I

## Death Match (cont.)

intoxication, then fear, then terror, then drugged calmness. A four pronged line of fire became locked on the beast, coming from each man's eyes. The bear then spontaneously combusted, with pieces flying everywhere.

Mr. Brown, who may I remind you was still naked, found the bear's skull on one of the turnbuckles of the ring and ate it in under 5 seconds.

With the bear defeated, the

and so Coach Simpson began hurriedly filling out demerit slip after demerit slip, for such things as "shirt tail nonexistent" and "breathing technique."

At this point, things start to become fuzzy. Brown began speaking Greek; Simpson began speaking Hungarian. The sky turned red, and children were falling from above. In hindsight, it must have been infamous



The bear

men turned their attention to one another. Simpson took advantage of Brown's distracted eating habits by sneaking up behind him and, in one of the most vicious acts your narrator has ever seen, produced an unending supply of demerit slips. He was heard mumbling something to the effect of, "I'm the best study hall proctor in this school, and it's time for you, DAVE, to SIGN IN!"

Mr. Brown, of course, paused only to pick some bear out of his teeth,

Simpson Spell of Fertility. Children began circling Brown, biting at him and chanting backwards Led Zeppelin lyrics. Brown, now feverish in his Greek recitation, began to fly around, thrashing about the cage, shaking many of the children. Brown cast a spell of his own, the crescendo of the fight began to reach a feverish pitch, and, at this instant, white washed over me, and my retinas were burnt off. From what I could gather from the sounds, both men were annihilated in a sea of carnage.

don't want to think about criticizing it, for this movie is hard to dislike. *Almost Famous* does, however, have one special scene: a scene that will always be remembered. There's a scene like such in all of Crowe's films. In *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, it's the scene where Spicoli has a pizza delivered to him during Mr. Hand's class. In *Say Anything...*, Lloyd Dobler's standing in front of Diane Court's house while she is asleep holding a boombox over his head for her to hear Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" will always be remembered. And in *Jerry Maguire*, who can forget Rod Tidwell's immortal line, "Show me the money!" I will not reveal the special scene in *Almost Famous*. You'll know it when you see it.

I still remain undecided on whether I just gave this movie a positive or negative review. *Almost Famous* is filled with very funny one-liners and dramatic scenes backed by great music, yet on a coherent whole, there is nothing special. It just doesn't seem to add up to the title "the best picture of the year," a title which many critics have given this movie. Perhaps I expected too much out of it, considering its hype, its director/screenwriter, and its subject matter. So if you want to see this movie, just lower your expectations a bit. But you are going to have to decide on your own whether or not you want to see the movie. I was able to decide, and I think I made a good decision.

## First Impressions from South Africa

by Nir Ash

I live in South Africa, where things work a little differently than the way they do here. In South Africa biscuits are cookies, cookies are wifes and most wives work.

Despite the many differences between our two countries, the boys and faculty at MBA have made it extremely easy for me, as an exchange student, to fit in to the MBA community. I am grateful to everyone for their kind hospitality toward me. As I walked around the campus, I couldn't help but be reminded of my school, Michaelhouse, by the red face bricks that characterise both schools. MBA's warm red brick buildings and their separated soothing green quads combine to provide a secure, comfortable learning environment.

My first experience in an MBA classroom was in Mr Womack's art class. I was very surprised to walk in and see almost everybody studying with their faces ear-deep in books, even before the period was set to start. I was extremely impressed with the work ethic of the boys, and I remember thinking to myself how much I was going to struggle if we were expected to work in every free moment of our time. I was relieved to find out that they had forgotten to do their homework for the next period and were quickly trying to finish it so that they wouldn't be sitting in the dormitory hall on Saturday morning!

It is amazing for me to be involved in a community where almost everyone over the age of sixteen has his own car. This allows American teenagers much more freedom than we are used to as teenagers in South Africa. In South Africa the legal driving age is eighteen and most families cannot afford to buy a third car for their children. We have to rely on our parents to get us around. I think that many people may take this privilege for granted.

My first football experience was when MBA played at Brenewood Academy. I came out more confused about the rules of the game than when I went in. It is quite interesting to see

## Top Ten Worst Movies Ever

by Ted Tywang and Daniel Rosenblatt

Ahh, the movies. What is more enjoyable for a person than to go relax in a theater and forget about all the problems of the real world as they are absorbed by a great movie. Well, it turns out that one of the problems of the real world that people go to the movies to get away from is, in fact, all the bad movies out there. Yes, unfortunately, for every *Braveheart* there's *The Perfect Storm*, for every *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* there's a *Mystery Men*, and for every *Good Will Hunting* there's a *Rocky V*. There are so many bad movies out there, in fact, that it was hard to narrow the list down to fifty, let alone ten. Nonetheless, we tried, and we think we actually did a darn good job.

10. *Pokémon, the First Movie*  
SLOBBY SEVENTHGRADERS!!

9. *Mary Anticks*  
Guys, take our advice, this all-star flop with an "all-star cast" is a great movie to take your date to as long as you want to keep her mind off the movie and on

other matters or should we say-in hand.

8. *Acid Western II: When Nerve Colls*, Adam Jim Carney had as nothing in the sequel as enough of a disappointment to make a grown man cry. Plus, any movie that talks about but faces deserves to be on this list.

7. *I'm Not a Man*  
Do you remember those Choose Your Own Adventure books you used to read in 3rd grade? Well, that's what this movie is: the world's first interactive movie.

Don't talk, just take our advice and don't buy it.

6. *Blair Wick Project*  
After having to vomit five times during the movie due to the annoying hand-held camera shots, the money wasted on the movie, and the scarring sight of the girl's nostrils, we became really scared when the climax occurred and the main character found a pile of rocks outside his tent.

5. *PT*

This film had a shocking budget, and it really showed. This movie is a perfect example of why miff, Hebrew, and an electric drill in your head don't mix.

4. *Judge Dredd*

"I am the law!" No sorry, Sly, you probably can't even read the Miranda rights, let alone act.

3. *Thane*

Long, really long, and with all the hype it was the letdown of the century. Oh yeah, and for the seventeen people left in the world who haven't seen it, sorry to ruin the surprise, but, the boat sinks. God, I never saw that coming.

2. *Waterworld*

Sorry, Kevin, we loved you in *Dances With Wolves*, but this 100 million dollar movie was one of the biggest commercial flops of all time. And, by the way, what does purified urine taste like?

1. *The Meme, 2000 Super Bowl Champ, What a Season*, presented by Sports Illustrated.

ONE YARD! JUST ONE LOUSY YARD!

the difference between our high school rugby games (the sport most similar to football in South Africa) and the high school football games here. The whole school, 520 strong, gathers on wooden stands in our smart uniforms to support our rugby team.

We regrettably don't have cheerleaders, instead we have war-cry leaders. War-cry leaders are much less attractive, being senior boys who walk back and forth in front of the school leading the school in vocal support for the team. They may get a little less attention from the boy supporters than the MBA's cheerleaders would, but I think they are a little more effective in raising vocal support.

It is wonderful to see the progress that is happening all the time through projects such as the renovation to the gym, the new Ingram and Carter buildings, and the constant upgrading of school facilities. Schools like Michaelhouse and MBA would struggle without the support of their old pupils and community. MBA is very fortunate to have such generous alumni and friends. MBA is a very good school and it is an honor for me to be part of MBA life for a little while. Although I still have two-and-a-half months left here at MBA I am already dreading the day that I have to say good-bye. On the bright side, I still have time to convert MBA into a cricket and rugby playing school!

## THE BURKHALTER



"Go speed Clarster, Gooo!"



# Opinions

11

## Activity Period A Total Waste of Time

by Deke Shearon

Okay, practically everyone I know that knows I write for the newspaper has asked me to write about one thing. And I hope the teachers are listening to me, particularly the English Department, because I want to show off how clear and terse I am being here. Here's the thesis: ACTIVITY PERIOD IS THE STUPIDEST IDEA EVER CONCEIVED AT MBA. Maybe it wasn't that stupid when it was conceived, but, oh my god, in practice this idea just is not working.

Hello faculty? Can you hear me? Have you noticed that over half the people signed up for an activity right now are signed up for STUDY HALL? STUDY HALL! After school! Okay, let me try to understand the purpose of activity period...you, the faculty, always looking in our best interests, want us to be more "involved in the MBA community," whatever that means. Okay. Well, then explain the presence of STUDY HALL as an ACTIVITY? Study hall is only an activity when Coach Simpson is your proctor, and even then it's an activity in evasion

(that's another angry article, another time, by the way). I mean, that is stupid beyond comprehension.

And, another thing. I have no idea why the faculty feels the need to force us to do an activity. You already force us to do a sport, and most everybody already does an activity. The fact that you make sports an "activity"

You know what? This is the hardest school in Nashville. We brag about it, we make magazines with pretentious photography to show everybody it. And our parents certainly pay for it. So, hey, if I want to go home at 2:55 rather than sit in a room until 3:20, then, please, just let me do it. I've worked all day. In all probability, I have something to do after school.

ridiculous. I hope the faculty is reading this...I hope this gets read aloud at the faculty meetings. If you do not take this article into account the next time you make a decision about activity period, you are doing the students a grave disservice. Literally everyone I've talked to thinks activity period is stupid. EVERYBODY.

We have five new administrators at MBA, people who are supposed to represent the students, and still stupid, stupid stuff like this goes down. You're losing touch with the students, guys, stuff like this is just going to make us have less respect for you. Giving us demerits doesn't make us any more obedient, just sneakier and angrier.

So I hereby challenge ANY teacher at MBA to write, for the Bell Ringer, a rebuttal to this argument. Justify the existence of activity period. You owe to it all the people you've made come here on a Saturday. You owe it to the students. Explain your actions, using something other than the handbook. I dare you.

### Does MBA have this grand fear that 20 or 30 minutes of inactivity will corrupt our brains forever?

shows that you are not trying to give non-athletic organizations precedence.

So what are you trying to do? Is there some sort of law that says we have to stay at MBA until 3:30 or we're not getting our money's worth?

And hey, you know how to get us to really hate activity period? GIVE US DEMERITS FOR IT CONSTANTLY!

So how about a little break before I've got to go run six miles or work on a play until 10 at night. Does MBA have this grand fear that 20 or 30 minutes of inactivity will corrupt our brains forever? It's hard enough to go to the bathroom during the day.

I mean, I have the utmost respect for the faculty, but this is just

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an eagle would never fly."

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